

**asymmetric**

Lacking all symmetry elements (other than the trivial one of a one-fold axis of symmetry), i.e. belonging to the symmetry point group  $C_1$ . The term has been used loosely (and incorrectly) to describe the absence of a rotation–reflection axis (alternating axis) in a molecule, i.e. as meaning chiral, and this usage persists in the traditional terms *asymmetric carbon atom*, *asymmetric synthesis*, *asymmetric induction*, etc.

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